

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL AUGUST 16, 2016**

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present, Rein Bontreger, Gerrit H. DeVries, John T. Price, Andrew Andree, Stephen Jordan, Gary Fritts and Paul Norwine. Also present was Kimberly K. Grow, Jasper County Auditor, and Tina Porter, Deputy Auditor. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Stephen Jordan.

MINUTES: Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 12, 2016 as presented. Mr. Andree seconded the motion and the motion carried.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Mr. Wakeland was present to request an additional \$16,000.00 from Project Income to be put in to the line item for the county Electronic Monitoring Equipment Leasing. He stated that Project Income is not tax payers money. It is the fees paid in by the clients. We currently lease three types of equipment. One is called Radio Frequency, one is TAD, which is an alcohol detection device, and one is GPS. The TAD and GPS cost more. It used to be that a majority of the clients were on the radio frequency and now the majority are on the alcohol detection device or the GPS so it is costing more per month. We are spending about \$4,300 a month on leasing equipment and will be out of money the first part of October, which is why we are requesting this additional appropriation to finish out the year. Mr. Norwine made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / COUNTY IDENTITY SECURITY PROTECTION FUND: Auditor Grow stated that Recorder Beth Warren sent a letter regarding the microfilm conversion. \$6,800.00 was requested. Mr. Bontreger asked if there were any questions or discussion. There was no comment. Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / COUNTY GENERAL / CIRCUIT COURT BUDGET: Judge Potter was present to discuss the law books budget. The law books budget covers both Superior and Circuit. The main contract with West Publishing is about \$37,000 per year and the original budget for this year was \$30,000 so we're through that. There's a couple smaller companies that a few of the books have to come from. He stated that the law books are essentially his and Judge Ahler's operating system and that he uses the law books almost every day for research. The additional appropriation is to get them through to the end of the year. Mr. Bontreger asked if these are all electronically delivered. Judge Potter replied that they are electronically delivered except we do have one set of the basic books of the Indiana Code and United States Code. We still get the Indiana cases in book reported form and one other law practice book. We also get a set of statutes for each court and we may even have the prosecutor statutes on our contract. We are required by law to present a hard copy, if asked. The books we have now are limited to five published series. Mr. Bontreger asked if we retain previous years' volumes. Mr. Potter responded that yes, we do, in the basement with the Indiana Code. Mr. Jordan asked about what books they have in Superior. Judge Potter replied that they have two sets of books, one by Burns and one by West. Superior pays for Search and Seizure books. Mr. Jordan stated that Judge Ahler had \$17,500 in his budget and he's spent \$6,600 so far. Would there be a possibility that he would have some that could go towards that since it's shared? Judge Potter stated that he does not know what else Judge Ahler pays for and can't speak for him. He does know that Shepherds is also over there. That is the book where you can check to see if the case you looked up is still good. West is the official publisher for the Indiana Supreme Court so it makes no sense to subscribe to anybody else. Mr. Bontreger asked if anything unused is absorbed back in to General. Judge Potter replied yes, but usually we don't have unused law book money. He said that we can ask Judge Ahler, but he still probably needs half of what he asked for, at the very least. There are 4 months of bills left after August. Mr. Bontreger asked if there were any other questions for Judge Potter. Mr. Fritts stated that he does not believe it was officially stated what he's requesting. Mr. Bontreger replied that he is requesting \$20,000. Judge Potter stated that the \$20,000 was to cover everything for the rest of the year, for sure. If we were to advertise, \$14,000 will cover the West contract the rest of the year.

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CONT'D: If there is extra, he can ask Judge Ahler. Mr. Bontreger asked if we are able to act on this tonight. Auditor Grow stated that we advertised for \$20,000, but we don't have to give him that much. Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve \$14,000. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL INCOME TAX GROWTH FACTOR: Mr. Bontreger stated that typically we've attached this to property taxes. Auditor Grow stated that she's had Attorney Monfort look over the GROWTH FACTOR REPLACEMENT LOCAL INCOME TAX ORDINANCE IMPOSING A COUNTY ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME TAX RATE TO FUND PROPERTY TAX REPLACEMENT AMOUNTS. Mr. Bontreger confirmed the rate is .00364 and stated that we need to decide if we are attaching it to income or property. He stated that there has been previous discussion that it would be best to attach it to property. Mr. DeVries made a motion to apply the rate to property taxes. Mr. Andree seconded. Mr. Bontreger asked if there was any further discussion. There was no comment. Motion carried.

COUNTY PARK: Mr. DeVries stated that he has been approached regarding a county park. He stated that he believes we really don't have any. Mr. Bontreger stated that he's had that same question directed to him. He stated that we would certainly have to do some research to see what kind of rates are available to fund that. Some things that go along with a county park are staffing, security, liability, land purchase, etc so that could run millions of dollars. Mr. DeVries asked if they think there may be someone that would donate some land. Mr. Fritts stated that it's going to take a land donation to get that initiated. Mr. DeVries stated that the Town of Demotte has some land that was donated years ago and is part of the park system. It's called Cirrus Park and not advertised much. He's not real sure where it's located. Mr. Norwine asked if it was by the old dump, where the subdivision is. Mr. DeVries stated that yes, he thinks so. He stated that it's not staffed and there's nothing there. Mr. Fritts stated that there's just walking trails and he doesn't know if they're maintained. Mr. Norwine stated that they are maintained. Mr. Bontreger stated that the proposed property has old gravel pit lakes and that seems like a potential danger. Mr. DeVries stated that the person had tried to explain to him how to get there and he was unable to find it. The person also mentioned to him that it might be good to join the lakes together for people that like kayaking.

Mr. Andree asked if there was a movement to get bike trails throughout the county. Mr. DeVries stated that there was some investigation done a few years back, but he doesn't know what happened with it. Mr. DeVries is wondering what we could do to increase tourism. We have a big factor with Fair Oaks Farms. That's huge for tourism and we need to promote that. Mr. Bontreger stated that it's going to take talking to the Auditor or Council of a county that has a park system to find out how they're generating funds. Mr. DeVries stated that he said he would bring it up and maybe a citizen might volunteer to form a Park Search Committee. There is some land full of Indian Artifacts that we might not want to see destroyed. Mr. Andree asked Mr. DeVries if this person(s) had any problem with the parks that we currently have in the towns and cities. Mr. DeVries replied that the person never said, just wondered if we could look in to it. Mr. Norwine addressed Kevin Kelly and stated that he thought Jasmine Hall presented something at a Remington Town Council meeting a couple years ago regarding trails through the county. Mr. Kelly replied that he and Emily Gross, about 4 or 5 years ago, put together a trails system with the help of outside experts. It was adopted and the municipalities took it and implemented it in the context of their own trails plan and park plans. The county government did not. One of the reasons, he believes, is budgetary. Also, distances between towns/cities is, in his opinion, the biggest constraint. He stated that there has been talk of putting a bike trail on top of the levee on the Jasper County side of the Kankakee and that was being driven by interest out of Porter County. Mr. DeVries stated that it would be really nice and have a lot of potential. Mr. Bontreger thanked them for bringing these things up and that he's sure there would have to be some sort of grant or donation. Mr. Norwine asked Mr. Kelly if Porter County has mentioned how they propose funding. He replied that he's not sure and has not heard from them in awhile.

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PUBLIC HEARING 2017 BUDGET HEARING

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT / LOCAL ROAD & STREETS BUDGET: Jack Haberlin is present and stated that what we are looking at is not a budget, but rather a needs list. Mr. Bontreger asked Mr. Haberlin what he put down for raises. Mr. Haberlin replied that he thinks they normally use a round figure of 10 percent. Mr. Bontreger asked if there were any questions and verified with Mr. Haberlin that he was asking for \$150,000.00.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S BUDGET: Mr. Haberlin and Auditor Grow stated that this is just Mr. Haberlin's salary.

WEED BOARD BUDGET: Auditor Grow stated that Mr. Korniak requested about the same as what he usually does.

CUM BRIDGE BUDGET: Auditor Grow and Mr. Bontreger stated that there is no change.

CUM CAP IMPROVEMENT BUDGET: Auditor Grow and Mr. Bontreger stated that there is no change.

COUNTY GENERAL / COMMISSIONERS BUDGET: Mr. Culp was present to go over the commissioners budget. The line items are as follows:

Salary

Longevity

Half of Harry Carney's Salary The other half we'll find in courthouse budget.

Mileage

Conference Per Diem

Part Time Custodian for Annex Raeanne Plough is the custodian, who also does work at the highway department, but that is paid out of their budget.

PERF

Unemployment Insurance, which is an increase.

Part Time Weights and Measures He works by the hour and we haven't needed that budget so we are decreasing it by \$5,000. He has a truck he keeps at the North Annex. He is the Porter County Weights and Measures guy so when he comes down, he gets the truck and gets his work done in Jasper County. Mr. Fritts asked how often he has to check the items that need checking. Mr. Culp replied that it's yearly. Once we exceeded a population of 30,000, we were required to get our own person before the state did that. All of the following scales have to be certified - at the pharmacy, at the deli, the scale at the high school for the wrestling team, in addition to truck stops and gas stations and any place that sells things by weight. Mr. Bontreger asked if Mr. Culp knew how many sites he has to stop at and Mr. Culp replied that he does not. Mr. Culp stated that he is very efficient and it hasn't cost as much as they had feared.

Workmen's comp is the the same as last year.

Medicare is the same as last year.

Group health has been relocated from CAGIT certified shares due to a state law change, or actually they are bundling those so it's been moved in to the commissioners budget. Auditor Grow stated that whatever the balance is that's left in that fund as of December 31 will be moved in to County General. Mr. Fritts asked if that was an increase then, that \$3,700,000. Auditor Grow stated that she's showing \$3,750,000 for last year and she believes it's the same and that part of it is here and part of it's in another category that she has to pay out of. Yes, she said, it's on the 3rd page of Tab 15 of the Budget Book, called PPACA Fees, part of Obamacare, and the Patient Center Outreach, so that comes out to \$3,750,000.

Social security remains the same.

4H council remains the same as before.

Animal testing remains the same.

Attorney This is the retainer so Auditor Grow put in for an increase. We round that, we usually don't put in for a percentage. It's been \$1,000 a month for quite a while. We'll leave that up to the council and we still don't have to give that full amount in one year, we can gradually increase it.

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Historical Society has no changes. Mr. Culp states that as long as he can remember, they've always received \$25,000 out of the commissioners budget and they've had some issues with the log cabin with some rotting boards and they've come in and given us some reports and never really asked for money. They try to raise all they can. We put in for a \$500 increase, which is very minimal, but they would really appreciate it.

Dues and subscriptions No change.

Mentally handicapped children No change.

Exam of records No change.

Fair premises and expenses No change.

KKK River Basin No change.

Memorial Day No change.

Liability Insurance is an increase of \$10,000.

Mowing of County Property is just mowing of the fairgrounds now because the airport takes that out of their budget.

Operation of the Fairgrounds stays the same.

Wabash Valley is a number that they give us that's an actual dollar amount from their request.

PPACA fee is the Obamacare fee that Auditor Grow talked about.

Patient-Cent Outcome Res Inst, which is from the healthcare insurance line.

Mr. Bontreger asked what the \$40,000 covers for the operation and maintenance of the fairgrounds. Mr. Culp replied that we write the fair board a check for \$40,000 in January that gets approved in February, which would go towards any number of maintenance projects that they have. This would be a good question for Tom Moore, the fair board President.

Solid waste is the fund that you try to equalize things with.

COURTHOUSE BUDGET: Mr. Culp was present to go over the courthouse budget. The line items are as follows:

Assistant Custodian is the other half of Harry Carney's salary. Actually, it will be our new custodian Charlie's other half.

Head Custodian Harry will move to head custodian.

Part Time Custodian Lou is the part time person who works evenings.

Courthouse Supplies Slight increase.

Tires and Tubes There are 2 vehicles that this line item funds.

Equipment Repairs This increased because there are 2 vehicles instead of 1.

Other Services and Charges This is a myriad of miscellaneous charges that come out of this fund.

Mr. Andree asked if Mr. Culp anticipates the utilities changing much since we did get some changes done to the building. Mr. Culp replied Yeah, but that hasn't been finalized yet. We still don't have the computerized control. It's not complete. There is supposed to be some guaranteed savings. It's not going to be a lot, but that was one phase, which we will talk about when we get to that line item.

COURTHOUSE ANNEX BUDGET: Mr. Culp stated that there is no change.

NORTH ANNEX BUDGET: The only change is the request for an additional \$250 for utilities.

This is the Sheriff's Annex and the Coroner is in there now, with motors and coolers running.

Mr. DeVries asked what date the 2016 expenditures are through. Auditor Grow responded June 30.

CENTRAL ANNEX / EXTENSION / SURVEYOR'S BUDGET: No change.

CEDIT: Mr. Culp was present to go over the CEDIT budget. He stated that these don't all pertain to the commissioners. A lot of these pertain to Bill Bately, IT. The ones that do pertain to the commissioners are as follows:

Supplies and postage No changes.

3 county cars \$5,000 reduction. There was some estimating last year and he said they think they can get by on less this year.

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Community Services Auditor Grow stated that Sharon Colee sends her apologies, but was unable to make it so she did send a packet. Mr. Culp stated that there are 3 sites that they are maintaining and they are asking for a \$15,000 increase in their line item. Mr. Bontreger asked Mr. Culp if he provides maintenance on the buildings or how is that divided up. Mr. Culp replied that she will take small repairs out of her budget. If there's a major repair, she calls. Yes, we pay for a lot of it out of our commissioners budget.

Crisis Center Mr. Culp stated that the crisis center has requested \$100,000. He would like to take some tourism money and replace approximately \$25,000 of that. He thinks that's very do-able and easily justifiable. Part of Economic Development could be funded out of Innkeepers Tax Dollars. We just opened a new motel at the interstate so there should be additional dollars. He asked Mr. Kelly how many rooms it has, to which he replied 75.

Legal Services Mr. Culp stated that this is work above and beyond the retainer fee and if there is other outside counsel, it gets funded out of this line so that remains the same.

Recycling Mr. Culp stated that we've had an agreement with the City of Rensselaer ever since we've had recycling. We own trailers that we bring down from Demotte, Wheatfield and up from Remington to the Rensselaer site. We drop them off and they unload them before we haul them back.

Treasurer Tax Expense This is for the lockbox for the property tax. We are under contract all through 2017.

Pictometry This is the assessor's software with the aerial photography imagery, which is a multi-year contract as well.

Recycling Cont'd Mr. Fritts asked Mr. Culp what the difference is between 2015 and 2016 and why we had such an increase in expenditures regarding the Recycling. It was \$16,000 total for 2015 and we are at \$37,000 so far for 2016. Auditor Grow replied that 2015 is only showing from August to December because we switched over to our new software.

CUM CAP DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Culp was present to go over CUM CAP Budget.

Surveyor Scanning These are old records that used to be housed in the basement here and made the move out there. They are brittle so they are scanning them so that we have permanent record of them. It is a multi-year project that he believes is going to cost \$10,000. The surveys are being taken to Indianapolis, which is cheaper than them coming up here. Mr. Bontreger asked if they destroy them when they're done scanning them. Mr. Culp replied that he presumes they return them to us and that it would need to go through the public records committee before they can be destroyed.

Buildings and grounds This is \$500,000 and has been that amount for years. There's a lot of properties around the county. Mr. Bontreger asked Mr. Culp if this an umbrella for all the properties and he replied that's right.

Equipment for cars This is the Sheriff's line.

GDIF General Ditch Improvement Fund, which has been at \$25,000 for years. A lot of times we don't spend that, but there's times we have to use it in emergency situations.

Courthouse energy project We contracted with EMCORE. They are the ones that did the project at the jail. Once we got that fixed with our consultant, we found out we could apply for an energy savings grant that they guaranteed we would see a certain amount or they would pay us that back. We thought that since this is an old building, we should try that here. There were multiple steps to the process and the first step was to automate the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. We are pretty frustrated with it because most of the work is done, but there's a computer that's supposed to be set up that monitors that that Harry and Havel can access and you can remotely, through your smartphone, make changes here and at the jail. We've had issues with scheduling the work. They would just show up to do the work and Bill Batley would tell them that he doesn't have permission to put things on our server and there's no cabling ran. The Sheriff has said they're not putting anything on our server until he has a meeting with Ryan King and I. This was phase 2. Mr. Bontreger asked if phase 1 was around \$225,000. Mr. Culp replied that he thinks that's right. The last phase is new windows, which is \$1,000,000. It may or may not happen, but will probably be a multi-year project. We're starting to replace boilers and chillers and there is nothing cheap about doing that. Until we can prove that this automation is going to work and gets installed, we're not going to go to the next step. I'm leary to say we're not going to do this next year because a boiler and/or chiller could go out at any time and we have \$500,000 in building and repair and that's all we've got so we would have to come to you in an emergency situation. If we start replacing some of that, that's going to happen here.

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Courthouse Energy Project Cont'd We are definitely going to move slower on this and I'm not sure Havel is the company to contract with on the next phase because they need to prove to us this is going to work. Mr. Bontreger asked if we could cut that in half. Mr. Culp replied that we're going to have to start saving for the next steps of this project and instead of doing it all at once, that would be a good compromise to slow this down a bit, due to lack of response and lack of compromise on the project.

Fairgrounds / Land Purchase This amount was at \$35,000. Mr. Culp stated that the council can direct any questions to Tom Moore, President of the Fair Board. He said that normally, whatever request an entity brings us, we put in the budget. In this case, we cut it back considerably. We had the \$40,000 for operation and maintenance and repair and we've had the judge's premium and the capital improvements at \$60,000. That has increased pretty dramatically in the last several years. They spend the money wisely but there is something else I'd like to talk about. The Fair Board is not aware of this, but we are trying to purchase some property adjacent to and west of the fairgrounds that currently the Fair Board leases off the Gilmore's for parking. The Gilmore's called Mr. Culp and said they knew we were interested and they think they want to sell the whole farm, but would be willing to sell us that 5 acre strip, which is about 75 feet. Mr. Culp did some research and suggested that we just round it up to 100 feet, which is about 6 1/4 acres. There is a whole process we have to go through. We all have a part in that. We have to get a survey and appraisals done. Attorney Monfort brought a resolution tonight that would give the council's blessing and allow us to negotiate with the land owner to see if we could purchase that property. Mr. Culp stated that part of the negotiations are the construction of a fence. They are requiring us to pay for it so it would be a Fair Board expense. What we've done is switch some of this around and we're kind of dictating to the Fair Board that if we make this purchase, some of those dollars are going to come out of what they asked to be appropriated. Mr. Culp asked Mr. Jordan if they're paying \$2,500 a year or something like that in rent and he replied yes, he thinks so. Mr. Culp stated that long term this will be a good thing, if we can get that negotiation complete. Mr. Jordan stated that the ground Mr. Culp is talking about is already being mowed and it blends right in and you would think it was part of the property already. Mr. Culp stated that the billboard right behind the log cabin is on Gilmore's property and is owned by the billboard company and will not be part of this deal. They've already sold that. Mr. Fritts asked, so this is 100 feet of road frontage, then? Mr. Culp replied yes, it extends 1/2 mile back. Where the retired iron has their auctions, that's all on the other property, not on county owned property. He stated this is part of the reason for the cutback in the fairgrounds amount and the additional request for the \$75,000. Mr. Bontreger asked Mr. Moore if he had any comments he wanted to weigh in on. He then asked Mr. Moore regarding the \$40,000 for operation and maintenance, if he could highlight what that covers and his thoughts on what's just been shared. Mr. Moore replied that there's a lot of things, like for instance, this last week, a couple of the roofs of the livestock buildings had to be painted to keep them from rusting, which was somewhere in the area of \$5,000. Things like that and general maintenance on the buildings that we do the rentals with, the community buildings. They are getting up in age where they're going to need some general maintenance, air conditioning, things like that. One thing they were going to try to do this year is replace the fair office since it is in dire need of replacement. They are going to look in to incorporating it in to another building that they can use for some other things. He is glad to hear about the ground. He said it doesn't make sense to pay that kind of rent every year. If we can get it bought, it would be an asset to us. Mr. Jordan stated that if you look at the amount of improvements within the buildings, such as pens and stuff, there's not been big amounts of money go towards those. He said that Tom's the goat superintendent and if you look in that barn this year, they have all brand new gates. Grant money, donations and the person who built the gates gave a lot of the labor and stuff to it. So if you look at it, not a lot of that \$40,000 is going towards that type of stuff. If you look at each one of those barns and the improvements that's made on them, there's a lot that's been done. The restaurant on the south end of the fairgrounds is completely redone this year, with the exception of the metal on the roof. They got it down to the walls and completely rewired and put in a new air conditioning unit. It was in worse dire need than the office was. It got done with a lot of free labor and donations from FBI Builders and other people that provided materials for that so there wasn't a lot of the \$40,000 of maintenance that went in to that. Regarding the office, the water flow that comes down over the blacktop, when there is a lot of rain, it flows down and goes through the building and come fair time, they have to empty everything out of it to get the black mold out of it.

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Fairgrounds / Land Purchase Cont'd There is mold in there that we deal with on a yearly basis. The location would probably change if we do get the process done of going ahead with it. Mr. Jordan stated that there was a 4H swine judge from Hendricks County at the fair and he just raved about our facilities and was very impressed, even after we had a 3 1/2 inch rain. Hendricks County fairgrounds are only approximately 15 years old. Mr. Jordan also stated that an open judge he had from Illinois was equally impressed with the facilities. If you think about what goes on at the fair, there are 230 families that basically spend the whole week out there. Mr. Jordan stated that the land purchase would be a good option. Mr. Culp stated that he hopes we can get it done. Mr. Fritts asked, so you're spending that \$40,000? Mr. Jordan replied that they're spending that \$40,000. It's kind of like looking at the \$500,000 that's maintenance for all the buildings for the county. We're looking at it that we may not spend all that \$40,000 one year on the maintenance part of it, but if we get in to the air conditioning units on the rented buildings, we are going to have to start spending some money there. Part of that we've shifted to cover utilities at times because when we went on city water and city sewer, the electric bill was high the rest of the year so that goes to cover things like that also. Mr. Fritts asked what the \$35,000 line item is that's been reduced to \$20,000. Mr. Jordan replied that it is major improvements and stated that they did some last year with a major part of it, such as blacktopping work, tile work, and new hydrants. That is more long-range instead of just yearly maintenance. Mr. Jordan asked Mr. Moore if there was anything else to add. He replied that it would be what would go towards a new office, things like that. Mr. Bontreger asked if that would accurately be called fairgrounds improvements. Mr. Jordan replied that the \$20,000 is basically fairgrounds improvements. It was \$35,000 last year so they were able to do some blacktopping that wouldn't have been done if they wouldn't have had it. Mr. Bontreger asked if the income from the rentals helps to provide for some of these improvements. Mr. Moore replied that they spend the whole year trying to build up an account to run the fair. He said that fair week puts a pretty big hit on them. He said they look at it as they are providing entertainment for the community and the county and are trying to spend the county's money wisely. Mr. Bontreger stated that he had a chance to talk with people in the Midwest Band and they were stoked that the electric worked and the place looked nice. Mr. Moore stated that they have signed for Memorial Day for the next 5 years, which is about a \$5,000 revenue for the week-end. Mr. Moore stated that having nice looking fairgrounds and everything in working order is essential to being able to draw that kind of entertainment. Mr. Jordan mentioned the new doors that were put on the Farm Bureau building a few years ago. Mr. Norwine mentioned the RV storage generating income. Mr. Jordan stated the west building is used in the winter for RV and camper storage and by enclosing the long building, they've been able to move cars out and use that for winter storage as well and there's still the other building to rent for weddings. Mr. Fritts asked if the \$75,000 for the land purchase has been negotiated. Mr. Culp replied not totally. He then asked if we will have a fence bill in addition to that. Mr. Culp replied yes, that was one of the requests the sellers had. He stated that there is a resolution that the attorneys need to work together on. Auditor Grow stated that the \$75,000 was put in there just so we could have something in the budget. Mr. Culp added that that basically allows us to negotiate with them. Mr. Jordan stated that we're not talking dollars here and Mr. Bontreger stated that they are just agreeing that they are going along with the process.

Surveyor Vehicles Mr. Culp stated that the \$73,000 is not them, but he believes is for a trailer, a truck and a snowplow. He then stated that he believes the truck and snowplow should be bought out of the highway budget, not the surveyor's budget. The surveyor's trucks are 2 seater trucks with a longer wheel base and they don't work as well with a snowplow. He said it's not the right set up to plow snow. Mr. Bontreger asked if it should run through the commissioners and highway or are the commissioners buying the vehicle and the surveyor's office gets to use it. Mr. Culp replied that this was the surveyor's request. Mr. Bontreger asked if they would decide not to do that, would Mr. Urbano need to go back to the commissioners. Mr. Culp replied well if they want something new. He then stated that they have a ton of trucks at the highway department and there's not any as good. The truck Mr. Haberlin drives is 15 years old, though it's not heavy duty to put a snow plow on. Mr. Culp said that they could use trucks too, but have decided to go after equipment, something to use on the roads. He stated that it's the council's call, but he wanted to throw that out there, that if that is the justification, he really thinks it should be purchased with gas tax money.

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Ambulance Mr. Culp stated that these are 2 year contracts. The new contract went in to effect January 1<sup>st</sup>. At budget time last year, we didn't know what the increase might be so Auditor Grow estimated and they came in lower than what the estimate was. These are actual numbers of what we pay, which is a \$65,000 savings. Mr. Jordan asked if we are satisfied with our service on the Prompt contract. Mr. Culp replied that long-term, he thinks it should be ran out of the hospital. He said he's not saying that about the townships, but he is aware that Southern has some issues with staffing and they've indicated an interest of maybe doing something a little different. He's had conversations with the hospital several months ago just to keep the line of communication open if they would be interested. They had a 2 year bid that was heavy on the first year to buy the equipment, so basically the county would be buying the equipment, and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year would be lower because the capital investment was already made. Mr. Culp told the hospital that the county really can't handle that, but if they were serious about it, maybe we could work something out.

RIVERBOAT: Auditor Grow stated that there is no request for Riverboat.

RESOLUTION: Mr. Bontreger asked if there were any thoughts or discussion regarding the resolution as presented regarding the purchase of the currently rented acreage at the fairgrounds. Mr. DeVries asked if the county owns the land, does the county pay property tax. Auditor Grow replied no. Mr. DeVries stated that we would actually lose a little bit of tax money from the owner. Auditor Grow said yes, 6 acres. Mr. Bontreger said that it's a legit question and Mr. DeVries replied that he thinks the land purchase is a good idea. There was some discussion regarding the benefits of owning the property and not having to pay rent. Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Monfort added that the 2 appraisals have already been done. The commissioners will finish off the agreement and we should expect to see a bona-fide legal description. What we are doing tonight is a resolution of interest which tells the commissioners that this will be funded.

JCEDO: Mr. Bontreger asked Kevin Kelly if he would like to weigh in any thoughts. Mr. Kelly replied that from a JCEDO standpoint, he believes this is the 6<sup>th</sup> year that the request has been consistent at \$100,000 and that goes in to the general fund. It makes it really easy for him to not have to worry about funds. On the tourism side, the budget request is again \$140,000, even though the new hotel is coming on. Their thought was to see how that impacts the revenues. They anticipate the revenues will go up. They would like to continue to spend what they spent last year and then next year we can take in to account the increase due to the new hotel. JCEDO and the tourism commission want to accommodate all 3 commissioners and we want to accommodate all 7 council persons. However the commissioners and council decide that needs to be accomplished, he said he is the willing worker to get that done. He said he can make it work either way. He said he hopes he wouldn't end up with a smaller overall amount if some adjustments were made, but if he did, he would make it work. Mr. Jordan asked Auditor Grow if Mr. Kelly's submitting the \$140,000 request can they take \$25,000 at the end request to cover that. Auditor Grow told Mr. Kelly that he requested \$100,000. He responded by saying he requested \$100,000 in general fund money and the tourism commission approved it's budget request, but the council also has to approve the \$140,000 for 2017 and of that \$140,000 the tourism commission will pay back to JCEDO \$15,000. Mr. Jordan stated that we can do less on the commissioners down to \$75,000 and asked if we can do more than what he asked for. Auditor Grow stated that he would have to do an additional appropriation. Mr. Kelly stated that the easiest and cleanest way to do this is to approve everything this year as requested and then if they want to make changes, do it before the budget is submitted next year. By then, we will have an idea on how much we're going to get from the new hotel. He stated that over the past few years, they've been putting money in to local festivals, but there hasn't really been a lot of accountability. He said going forward, they'd like to be a little more strict and put a little more friendly pressure on the situations that they think are not going to be money well spent and be a little more frugal and that would leave them with some extra money. The tourism commission has begun to scale back the South Shore commitment. This year the South Shore is budgeted to receive \$18,000. Next year, if the tourism budget is approved, they will only be giving the South Shore \$9,000 and they've told the South Shore group the following year will be \$0 and if the tourism commission needs services, they will have to pay for them individually.



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JCEDO CONT'D: That is down from the initial amount of \$30,000 so that frees up more money to put in to tourism. What they have started to do now is develop some marketing, such as visitor's guides and direct marketing on behalf of Jasper County and on behalf of it's attractions and hotels. Mr. Jordan stated that he would like to see that they not make changes and put it towards administrative until they see how things work out. He said the money has been great coming in and they've done a super job building festivals and putting it in the right direction. We also don't want to think tourism is the only thing we're going to do with this. There are probably some other areas out there that may come in to play that might take a few more dollars that would be a longer term deal that would benefit the tourism in the county other than just festivals. Mr. Kelly stated that they are trying not to waste any money. He believes there should be an excess of \$225,000 on account accumulating, whether it be today or by December 31<sup>st</sup>. He stated that the biggest tourist attraction in Jasper County is the Jasper Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Preserve, but there's no lodging there. If we could get lodging and camping added to what they have then people could spend the night and if they spend the night, they will stay longer and spend more money. If you go to a national park, there always seems to be a little tourist town that's the jumping off point for the park. Maybe 40 years from now, Wheatfield could possibly be a tourist trap for the hunters, fishers and campers that come to that preserve. He said that may be wishful thinking, but it was just an idea he had for the long term where we could invest to create more tourist attractions, but we would need to have the state's cooperation.

In terms of the budget, Mr. Kelly stated the line items are as follows:

Administrative \$25,000 of which \$15,000 would come to JCEDO for our contract with the tourism commission, approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000 would be expense reimbursement for conferences, mileage, etc. and the extra \$5,000 was beefed up a little bit when they cut back the amount that was sent to the South Shore

Community marketing and promotion \$65,000, which is for the discretionary fund. They go to the festivals and ask what is planned and how much money is needed. Other than writing the tourism commission a letter, there is really no application process. The visitor's guide was funded out of the discretionary fund. The community activities support program is the application process where the smaller groups can come and get as much as \$2,500 on a match. The South Shore partnership is \$9,000. The capital projects, such as the mural on the side of the Embers building, tourism put \$5,000 towards that partnered with the owner and the Tippecanoe Arts Foundation. He believes the total cost of the project was \$17,500. The welcome sign that Main Street Rensselaer is doing on SR114 out by the interchange that hasn't been built yet is another \$5,000 or so that the tourism commission provided. The great thing about these types of projects is that they last.

Mr. Norwine commented that the Touch of Dutch has come a long way. He said there was a huge crowd Saturday night due to money the tourism commission allocated for the band. Mr. Bontreger and Mr. DeVries commented on the ramble, saying there were 700 runners, which is the most they've ever had. Mr. DeVries asked Mr. Kelly why he thinks Jasper Pulaski is the biggest attraction Jasper County has, since although Fair Oaks is Newton County, we do have Belstra's. Mr. Kelly replied that Legacy Farms is actually part of Fair Oaks Farms Complex. They could be considered equal, but a lot of that is in Newton County. Those are the top 2 for sure, but you buy the tickets and spend the money in Newton County. Mr. DeVries asked Mr. Kelly what brings people to Jasper Pulaski and he replied hunting, fishing, bird watching and the sand hill cranes, but you can't spend the night there. He said that's the issue, in his opinion. Mr. DeVries said, see, then there's the park, we just need to develop it. Mr. Kelly suggested asking the state to build a lodge or at least allow for campgrounds. We're not at the point where we can bring this idea to the state. We would be in a better position if we could tell them we have money to contribute towards it. Mr. DeVries asked Mr. Kelly if he feels decreasing the money sent to the South Shore is a good move. He replied that he does and stated that by the time they are phased out, they would have been on our payroll for 4 years. We've seen what they're doing for us and we're doing more of it and by budget time next year, if we're not comfortable phasing them out completely, we can always back track. When we cut it down to \$9,000, we told them to anticipate this being the last year. Mr. DeVries asked if we can do this ourselves. Mr. Kelly said we can and if we need their help, we will just have to cut them a check on an as-needed basis. Mr. DeVries said that's a good transition.

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Mr. Bontreger opened the floor to public comment.

COMFORT SUITES: Mr. Bob Schenk mentioned that the Comfort Suites has a ribbon cutting August 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00.

Motion to continue to Friday, August 19, 2016 at 8:30 A.M. made by Mr. Fritts. Motion seconded by Mr. DeVries and the motion carried.

Mr. Kelly invited everyone to the JCEDO Golf Outing on August 23, 2016. Dinner is at 5:00.

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Rein O. Bontreger, President

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Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County